

---

# BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

---

Pastor Sue Sinclair

JULY 2026

Office Phone: 753-4804 Cell: 605-933-0131 Church: [beosluth@alliancecom.net](mailto:beosluth@alliancecom.net) Pastor: [pastorsuesinclair@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsuesinclair@gmail.com)

## FROM THE PASTOR...

### FREEDOM IN CHRIST

What is freedom? In July we tend to focus on Independence Day and talk about the freedoms we experience here.

As we celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we remember that the freedoms we experience have come through the work and sacrifices of others.

Because of this, we tend to think that Independence equals Freedom. But when it comes to being a Christian, that is not true. Our freedom comes from our dependence on Christ.

Our freedom in Christ does not mean that we make up the rules as we go and can do whatever we want. It means that we are to follow God's will for us out of love and thankfulness. And what is God's will? Scripture tells us that, "(The Lord) has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8) It reminds us that "The love of the Father is not in...the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—(they) come not from the Father but from the world." (1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15b-16)

Instead, "In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. (1<sup>st</sup> John 4:10-11).

As we celebrate 250 years of our freedoms in the United States, especially those laid out in our

constitution, we should also live in celebration of God's great gift of grace through Christ and live as a community of faith guided by his words. "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34).

~ Pastor Sue



At Fellowship Village Tuesdays at 2 or

at Bethlehem Wednesdays at 7 pm.

### July 21/22 – Philemon

### July 28/29 – Galatians

You are welcome to join whichever study time best suits your schedule!



Jakson Blankespoor, Anna Leu, Jeromy, Hadlee Vande Stouwe, Virginia Beynon, Tamra & Anthony, Holly Rozeboom, Nathan Huyser, Bev Jackson, Matt, Kendra Michael, Austin, Erin Van Der Brink and Hazel Mae, McKenna Bouwman, Holly Horstman, Arnie Van Voorst, Arlyn Schreurs, Don Eiesland, Wayne Kollis, Presley, Jane, Tashina, Jim, Anna, Mark, Lori and all our Nursing Home residents (Joy, Marion, Bev B, Jean M. Connie, June)



! BLCW has just purchased a new refrigerator for the kitchen. The old one was moved to the Youth Room.

! It would be greatly appreciated if extra food from events were not left in the freezers or refrigerators, as it tends to get old and outdated and then left for someone else to dispose of. Thank you!!

! To conserve energy the old refrigerator in the storage room will be unplugged when not in use.

**!! Please check for and pick up your dishes and pans on the shelves in the kitchen. BLCW will be cleaning the kitchen and will get rid of any items left after the summer. With so many different groups using the church, we all need to help keep the kitchen and church clean and useable.**

Thank you,  
BLCW Board



The position for Sunday school superintendent is open. Please visit with someone from the board of Education if you are interested.



## July 4<sup>th</sup> The Breakfast of Champions!

No, not Wheaties.  
It is the annual

Kiwanis pancake breakfast! Once again, this event will take place here at Bethlehem 7:00-9:00 am. Kiwanis champions the needs of young people. The funds that our local Kiwanis Club raises will benefit young people in our community and beyond.



## B - I - N - G - O

The Inwood Community Club is hosting Bingo on the 4th of July and have asked to use our fellowship hall again this year. Bingo will be on begin at 2:00 and wrap up at 4:30.



## WORSHIP HELPERS THIS MONTH

**Usher Team** – Stan Haugland Team

**Alter Guild** – Kim Gayer & Teresa Kerkvliet

## FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

\*\* Will not meet this month \*\*



## GREETERS SCHEDULE

For July

6 – Greg & Cheryl Twedt

13 – Dan & Pam Moen

20 – Stan & Cynthia Haugland

27 – Jon & Gloria Bonjour



## July Acolyte

- 5 – Memphis Van Dyke  
 12 – Hallie Brueggeman  
 19 – Ryker Rentschler  
 26 – Jakson Blankespoor



There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall, as you enter the kitchen, for summer coffee hour if you are interested in furnishing refreshments. If it's in honor of a special event, be sure to notify the office so it can be put in the bulletin and newsletter.

Thank you to all who have made coffee hour goodies so far this summer.



***In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberated us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We celebrate the July baptismal anniversaries of the following members of Bethlehem Lutheran:***

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Tripp Olson – 7/1    | Ashlee Van Hill – 2   |
| Tyler Kock – 3       | Gary Kruse – 4        |
| Mitch Rentschler – 4 | Cindy Van Voorst – 7  |
| Benjamin Bahnson – 9 | Carol Vander Kolk – 9 |
| AJ Whalen – 11       | Nancy Halma – 14      |
| Alicia Ahrendt – 17  | Bria Berentschot – 19 |
| Jean Mundt – 21      | Randy Hamann – 21     |
| Wil Van Hill – 21    | Kyle Knutson – 25     |
| Pam Hanson – 26      | Ryker Rentschler – 2  |

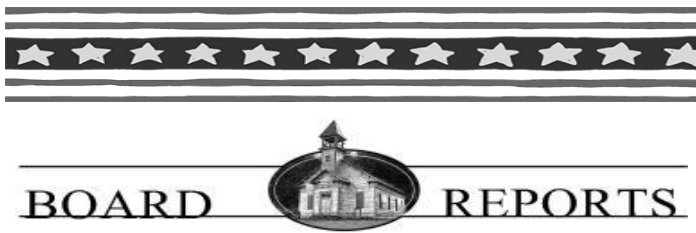


*The following couples will celebrate the gift of marriage this month by observing their wedding anniversaries:*

- |         |                                |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| July 8  | Tim & Carla Kroger – 2000      |
| July 13 | Gavin & Taylor Lorenzen – 2024 |
| July 18 | Matt & Kelsey McKenney – 2009  |
| July 21 | Greg & Sandy Hanson – 2009     |
| July 23 | Grant & Jane Niemeyer – 2006   |
| July 26 | Paul & Sue Kippley – 1980      |
| July 29 | Ed & Jan Baatz – 1983          |
| July 31 | Luke & Chelsea Snyders – 2004  |



- |    |                                                                   |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Grant Hoogendoorn, Bonnie Winter                                  |
| 3  | Jakson Blankespoor                                                |
| 7  | Damon Snyders, Carmen Van Dyke                                    |
| 9  | Dansby Snyders, Dylan Whalen                                      |
| 10 | Marilyn Caswell                                                   |
| 11 | Jessica (Jensen) Peterson, Bryce Kock, Jamie Kelly, Deb Vogelzang |
| 12 | Seth Bahnson, Peter Bahnson                                       |
| 13 | Bronx Kramer, Karley McKenney, Briggs Van Dyke                    |
| 15 | John Folkens                                                      |
| 19 | Marilyn Ahrendt                                                   |
| 20 | Belah Kramer, Carla Kroger                                        |
| 21 | Drew Van Dyke                                                     |
| 22 | Rachel Folkens, Angie Kuecker                                     |
| 26 | Pam Hanson, June Junge                                            |
| 30 | Vern Knutson, Kathy Rozeboom, Ava Van Dyke                        |



## June 2026

### **Board of Lay Ministry**

#### **June 10, 2026**

Members present: David Lantz, Kay Twedt, Jim Jensen, Dustin Hoogendoorn, Pastor Sue, Dave Phipps, and Marilyn Caswell

1. Reviewed the minutes of the April Board meeting – Minutes were approved
2. Pastor gave her monthly report.
  - Pastor needs to circle back with Cynthia on the funds from the Endowment Committee to purchase 50 ASC Hymnal Supplements (Blue).
  - Pastor reported that she had completed training on the Sacraments in Confirmation. Pastor is looking to expand the confirmation classes in grades 4-6.
  - Pastor reported that she will dwell on the Word in the Bible Study this summer. Starting with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> books of John. The Bible Study will be at Fellowship Village on Tuesdays at 2 PM and Wednesday evenings at 7 PM. The Bible Studies will be more of an open conversation and discussion. Discussion will be based on what the participants found powerful, challenging or difficult to understand.
  - Pastor shared her vacation dates for this summer. July 7-17. Pastor Sue has Trish Underberg scheduled to cover the Sunday that she is on vacation.

- Pastor shared that the Bishop Scott would like to make connections with congregations in the Synod. Pastor will follow-up to have the Bishop visit Bethlehem. Suggested dates were in January,

3. Followed up on discussion related to the Contemporary Service. Suggested to use Chap GPT to find contemporary songs related to the scripture reading for the Sunday service.
4. Discussed ideas for God's Work, Our Hands. Discussed Dates for the event. It was suggested to do this work on a Saturday and stay off of Rally Sunday.
5. Discussed the idea of a shared service with Immanuel Lutheran churches in Rock Rapids, and George Congregations. Maybe an outdoor service.
6. Other Items – Discussed funds for the family situation in Inwood that had a tragic death. Funds had been collected through free will donation and, discussed using additional funds from the Thrivent Fund or Undesignated Fund to bring the dollar amount higher.
7. Asked Pastor to complete the congregation Annual Report to the congregation.
8. Old Business
  - Alter Guild items.
    - a. The Sink the Sacristy over flowed and damage the cabinets. The plans have been made to install new and additional cabinets along the south wall of the Sacristy.
    - b. Discussion that more juice should be available for Communion. Kay will let the Alter Guild know.

9. The meeting closed with Prayer from Pastor.

No other reports were turned in.



**BLC MISSION STATEMENT:**

"To welcome all people to seek and serve God as members of the Body of Christ."

**BLC VISION STATEMENT:**

We will be:

A welcoming Church:

Opening our doors and hearts to all who enter.

A Church that seeks after the heart of God:

Maturing in faith.

Trusting His word.

Living God's love.

A Church that is committed to one another:

Through fellowship.

Through love and service.

Through grace and forgiveness.

A Church that ministers to the world around us.

A Church that brings its gifts back to God:

Through good stewardship of time, talent, and treasures.

302 N Oak St Inwood, IA 51240 P.O. BOX D

Church Office: 753-4804 Email: [beosluth@alliancecom.net](mailto:beosluth@alliancecom.net)

Pastor Cell Phone: 605-933-0131

Church Website: [blcinwood.com](http://blcinwood.com)

